(e) whether the Government propose to increase the telecasting time of Shimla Doordarshan Kendra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The lead time involved in implementation of a project of this nature is about 3 to 4 years, after approval of the scheme by the competent authority, subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Voluntary Organisation for Welfare Schemes

5247. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by his Ministry of by the concerned Ministries to inform Voluntary Organisations about various welfare schemes which are intended to be implemented through them;

(b) whether in the absence of providing timely information in the local languages, these organisations are not in a position to take advantage of the schemes; and

(c) whether the Government propose to bring changes by utilising the services of the State Governments, nodal voluntary agencies, the press, electronic media etc., so that more and more Voluntary agencies will come forward to implement these welfare schemes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Daily Running of Trains

5248. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trains Ganga-Jamuna and Sarayu-Jamuna run between Ayodhya to Delhi are proposed to be plied daily;

(b) if so, the date by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Railway Heading Towards Debt Trap

5249. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are heading towards debt trap;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the new projects proposed in the Budget are insufficient to meet the necessities of tribals; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) This Govt. has decided to accord priority to projects in backward and tribal areas to expedite their development. A number of new projects have been taken up in the last one year in such areas. Further, more projects will be sanctioned in future, depending upon availability of funds and budgetary support from the Government.

[Translation]

Heavy Passenger Traffic

5250. DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing passenger traffic on Delhi-Bahadurgarh-Rohtak-Jind and Delh-Rewari sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to electrify the Delhi-Jind and Delhi-Rewari railway sections so as to provide superfast rail facilities like E.M.U. to the passengers of these areas;

(d) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct any survey in this regard; and

(f) the plans being formulated by the Government to provide superfast rail facilities to cope up with the increasing passenger traffic on these sections in case the railway lines of these sections are not electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The daily average number of passengers on Delhi-Bahadurgarh-Rohtak-Jind and Delhi-Rewari sections during the year 1996-97 has shown as increase of 23% and 2.8% respectively in comparison to the last year, i.e., 1995-96.